

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When image information for the purpose of being printed out has been entered, whether or not the image information contains a mark image such as a watermark is

5 determined to such an extent that will not lower the throughput of a printer. To accomplish this, the image is input and elapsed time starts being measured from the start of detection processing that is for detecting whether a specific image is contained in the input

10 image. If time runs out during the course of detection processing, a decision is rendered to the effect that the image does not contain the specific image.

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